

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, and 15 and added new claims 21 and 22. Accordingly, claims 1-22 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed December 14, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0128877 to Levit ("Levit"). To the extent this rejection might still be applied to the claims presently pending in this application, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons stated below.

In rejecting claims 1-20, the Examiner cited paragraphs [0050-51] of Levit as generally teaching the request of a claim payment and the pairing of a payment with a claim, allegedly corresponding to the last two lines of independent claim 1 and similarly in the other independent claims 8 and 15. In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15 to emphasize at least one feature patentably distinct from Levit. In particular, the amendments clarify that the recited transactions occur between a reinsurer and an insurer, and involve more than one insurance policy. Indeed, the present invention enables an insurer to manage many different transactions between the insurer and a reinsurer, involving many different policies between the parties. Support for the amendments can generally be found, for example, at paragraphs [0029] and [0053-54] and in Figures 16-19 of the present application.

Levit relates generally to managing insurance programs, and specifically, to a method for accepting payment of a premium amount from a policy owner and then allocating the premium amount between an individual investment account, at least partially owned by the policy owner, and a general reserve fund. (Paragraph [0026].) Levit therefore focuses on the relationship between an *insurer* and its customer (*i.e.*, health care patient), and processes the payment of premiums and claim benefits as singular events.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a *reinsurer-insurer relationship*, giving the insurer access to a ledger simultaneously displaying many different transactions, involving many different insurance policies. (*See, e.g.*, the “current account” screen shown in Figures 5 and 6 and paragraph [0045] of the specification.) From this ledger, the present invention provides the insurer with the ability to settle those transactions (*e.g.*, by pairing payments with claims and also by setting-off without payment). (*See, e.g.*, paragraphs [0046-59] of the specification.) Amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15 recite such features. To further emphasize these distinguishing features over Levit, Applicant has also added new claims 21 and 22, support for which can be found at, for example, paragraphs [0047] and [0054] of the present specification.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are patentable over Levit. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-20 are also patentable due at least to their dependence on an allowable base claim.

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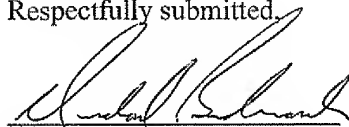
In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER LLP
875 – 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel: 202-551-1700

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Respectfully submitted,

By:



Michael Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329

MB/SPA/gb
Customer No. 36183